

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23, 1899.

Hon. Nelson W. Aldrich,

United States Senate.

Dear Senator:-

I have delayed responding to your request for advance sheets of the two reports because I have been expecting to have complete copies. They will be out surely some day next week but meantime I send you the complete proofs of the production report and the proof, so far as received, of the fiscal report. The latter is complete up to the appendix. Touching the production of gold during 1899 it is safe to say that if the output of the South African mines had not been cut off by the war the World's production this year would have reached \$350,000,000. The production in South Africa for the months ending with August was about 30 percent. above that of the corresponding months of 1898. This rate continued through the year would have given a gain for the entire year of about \$24,000,000.

The output of Australia for the first eight months of this year is 25 percent. above that of the yield of the corresponding months in 1898. At this rate the gain for the year would be \$16,000,000. \$18,000,000 is a conservative estimate of the gain in the United States, Mexico and Canadian Territory. The other producing countries of the world will show some gain so that in the aggregate the normal production of this year would have been about \$60,000,000 above that of 1898.

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The figures of course will not be realised because there has been little done in South Africa since the first of October. It should be remembered further that in all these districts the rate of production at the close of the year is considerably higher than it was at the opening of the year so that even if there were no further gain in rate of production the yield for 1900 in all these districts will be considerably higher than in 1899.

The actual receipts of gold at the United States mints and assay offices from Alaska, Canadian territory, from July 1st to December 1st, have been \$15,067,469.20.

Very truly yours,



Director of the Mint.